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## Letters to the Editor

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### Put Press Officer in Cabinet

To the N. Y. Herald Tribune:

Co-ordination of news originating from governmental sources is now tremendously difficult and complex. The responsibility for the preparation and the release of statements on issues calling for official handling in the national interest frequently involves several governmental departments, often leading to conflicting statements.

There should be a single jurisdiction over all news emanating from government sources. The urgency of this problem is illustrated by the fiasco of the conflicting statements on the U-2 incident. This situation can best be corrected by creating a new Cabinet office, that of official spokesman for the government and the people of the United States.

This new office should be directed by an official skilled in the techniques of news dissemination. He should be re-

sponsible for the consistency of such statements with basic government policies. In addition, this new Cabinet department should explain governmental policy to our own citizens and initiate counter-offensives against unfriendly foreign propaganda. The United States Information Agency should fall within its jurisdiction.

The duties of this Cabinet officer should include those currently discharged by the Presidential press secretary and the press spokesmen of the various government agencies. His Cabinet post should enable him to prevent the issuance of statements which are likely to create an inaccurate image of the United States in the minds of friends and foes. This new Cabinet member would be the chief of staff in our battle for world opinion.

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